

Amendments To the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include a change to Fig. 11b, appearing in three sheets, Fig. 11b(i), Fig. 11b(ii) and Fig. 11b(iii) and with the change appearing only in the latter. These sheets replace the original sheets. Fig. 11b, previously omitted reference number 700 referencing the switch 700, which has now been added to Fig. 11b, namely sheet Fig. 11b(iii).

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Change

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner Mr. Chun-Kuan (Mike) Lee and the SPE, Mr. Fritz Fleming, for their time in conducting an Examiner's interview, this is truly appreciated. Receipt of the Interview Summary, dated May 31, 2006, is acknowledged and the comments/remarks stated on the Continuation Page of the same are believed to be accurate with one exception, as noted below.

A petition for a one-month extension of time and appropriate fees is being submitted herewith. A terminal disclaimer, under 37 CFR 1.321, and appropriate fees are being submitted herewith and believed to overcome the nonstatutory double patenting rejection of claims 1-16 and 19-32. Furthermore, a number of co-inventors are being added and documents are being submitted to effectuate the same.

The specification is amended, as recited hereinabove, to correct typographical and grammatical errors, no new subject matter has been added. Claims 1-7, 9 – 26 and 28 - 32 remain in the subject application. Claims 8 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice, Applicant reserves the right to reinstate the same in the future. Claim 33 is added. Claims 1, 16, 17 and 20 have been amended, as recited hereinabove.

Claims 1-16 and 19-32 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-30 of copending Application No. 10/775521 in view of "SATA vs. PATA: the reality of Serial and Parallel ATA – Serial ATA". A terminal disclaimer is being submitted herewith and is believed to overcome this rejection.

Claims 16-17 have been objected thereto due to certain informalities, which have been addressed in the amended claims 16-17 hereinabove.

Claims 7-8 and 26 -27 have been rejected, under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. First, it is believed that the Examiner intended to reject claims 8 and 27 and not claims 7 and 26, as the latter two claims are not directed to concurrent accessing. Verification of this point is respectfully requested. Second, the subject matter of claim 8 has been added to claim 1 and the subject matter of claim 27 has been added to claim 20 for reasons discussed below. Third, it appears that concurrent accessing, as recited in previous claims 8 and 27 is perhaps being

interpreted differently than intended by the Applicants. In this regard, the definition of "concurrency" appears on page 44, lines 24-26 of the subject specification and for convenience appears as:

"Concurrency, as used herein, indicates acceptance of commands, from either of two or more hosts, at any given time including when a device (such as a storage unit) is not in an idle state."

The above definition of concurrency has been added to independent claims, as discussed during the interview and as recited hereinabove in the amended claims. In light of the foregoing, the subject matter of previous claims 8 and 27, which are now a part of claims 1 and 20, respectively, should be clear and this rejection is then rendered moot.

Claims 1, 6-14, 20-21 and 25-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Grieff et al. (US Patent 6,961,813) (hereinafter "Grieff"). It is believed that claims 1 and 20, as amended hereinabove, and all claims depending therefrom are patentable over Grieff. The remarks appearing in the Interview Summary of May 31, 2006, on the continuation page, basically summarize the Applicants' position with one exception, which will be indicated shortly, and will therefore not be repeated here. As to the exception, in the third line of Paragraph 5 of the Continuation Page of the Interview Summary after the words ", no further command can be received from the other host", we would add the words "until the current command is completed and acknowledgement thereof has been made".

In summary, in Grieff, it is believed that, for a number of reasons, which, for the sake of brevity, are not enumerated here, at any given time, only one of the host ports (130 or 132) can send commands to the drive via the dual port adaptor. More specifically, while a host that has won arbitration is permitted to send a command to the dual port adaptor, the other host is prevented from sending commands to the dual port adaptor until the occurrence of a particular event -- assignment, by the arbiter module 112, of the highest priority to the host that is prevented from sending commands upon completion of execution of the command in progress [See Grieff: Col. 5, lns. 49-64 and col. 7, lns. 2-6]. Accordingly, the dual port adaptor of Grieff receives commands sequentially.

In contrast thereto, in an embodiment of the present invention, as shown, for example, in Fig. 6 of the subject application, the host ports (310, and 320) are layer 4 SATA ports which each include a task file for receiving commands from a host regardless

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of the host wining arbitration. Thus, the hosts are not required to win arbitration prior to sending a command to the switch, as required in Grieff, rather, the two hosts, through their respective host ports can send commands to the switch concurrently, as recited in the amended claimed invention. Thus, it is believed that claims 1 and 20 are patentable over Grieff and therefore, all claims depending therefrom are necessarily patentable over Grieff.

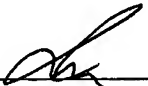
Claims 2-5 and 22-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grieff in view of Ng (US Patent 6,388,590). It is believed that the claimed invention is patentable over these references for, inter alia, the foregoing reasons. As a separate basis of patentability, the combination of the foregoing references, as the basis of rejection, is disagreed therewith since neither of these references suggests or hints at the teachings of the other.

It is further believed that newly-added claims 33-43 are patentable.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-7, 9 - 26 and 28 - 32 is hereby respectfully requested. Consideration and allowance of claims 33-43 is additionally respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the subject application is now in condition for allowance and an early notice thereof is respectfully requested. Should any further amendment be required prior to passing the application to issue, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
LAW OFFICES OF IMAM

Dated: July 5, 2006
LAW OFFICES OF IMAM
111 North Market Street, Suite 1010
San Jose, CA 95113
Tel: 408-271-8752

By 
Maryam Imam
Reg. No. 38,190

Fax: 408-271-8886

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all attachments is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington VA 22313-1450 on July 5, 2006 by Erika Villafana.



Attachments

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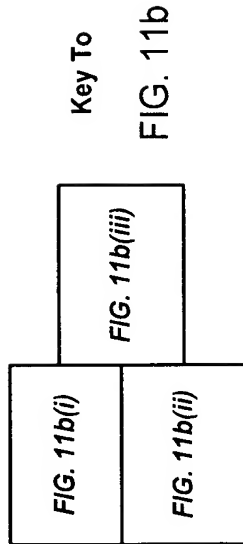


FIG. 11b

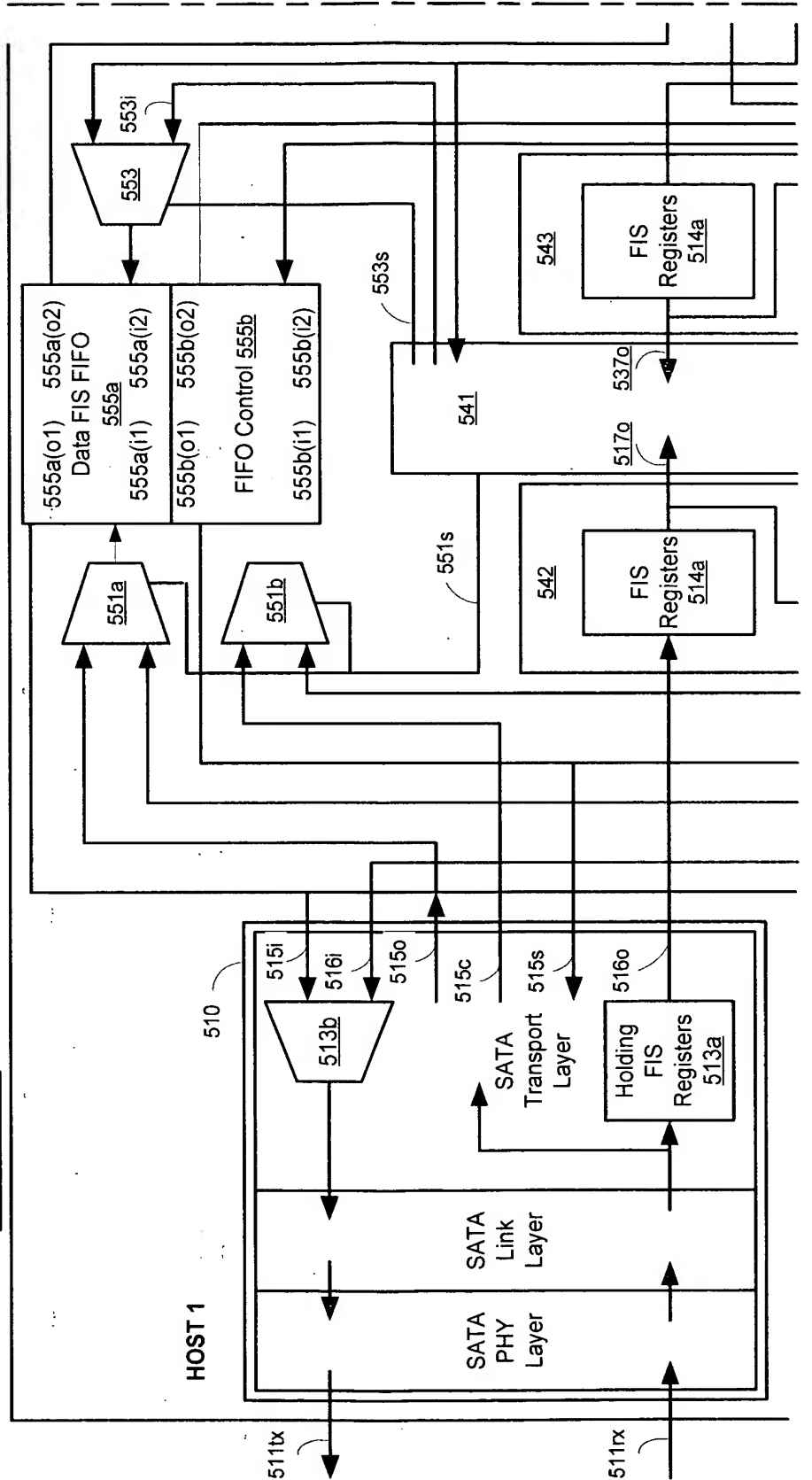


FIG. 11b(i)

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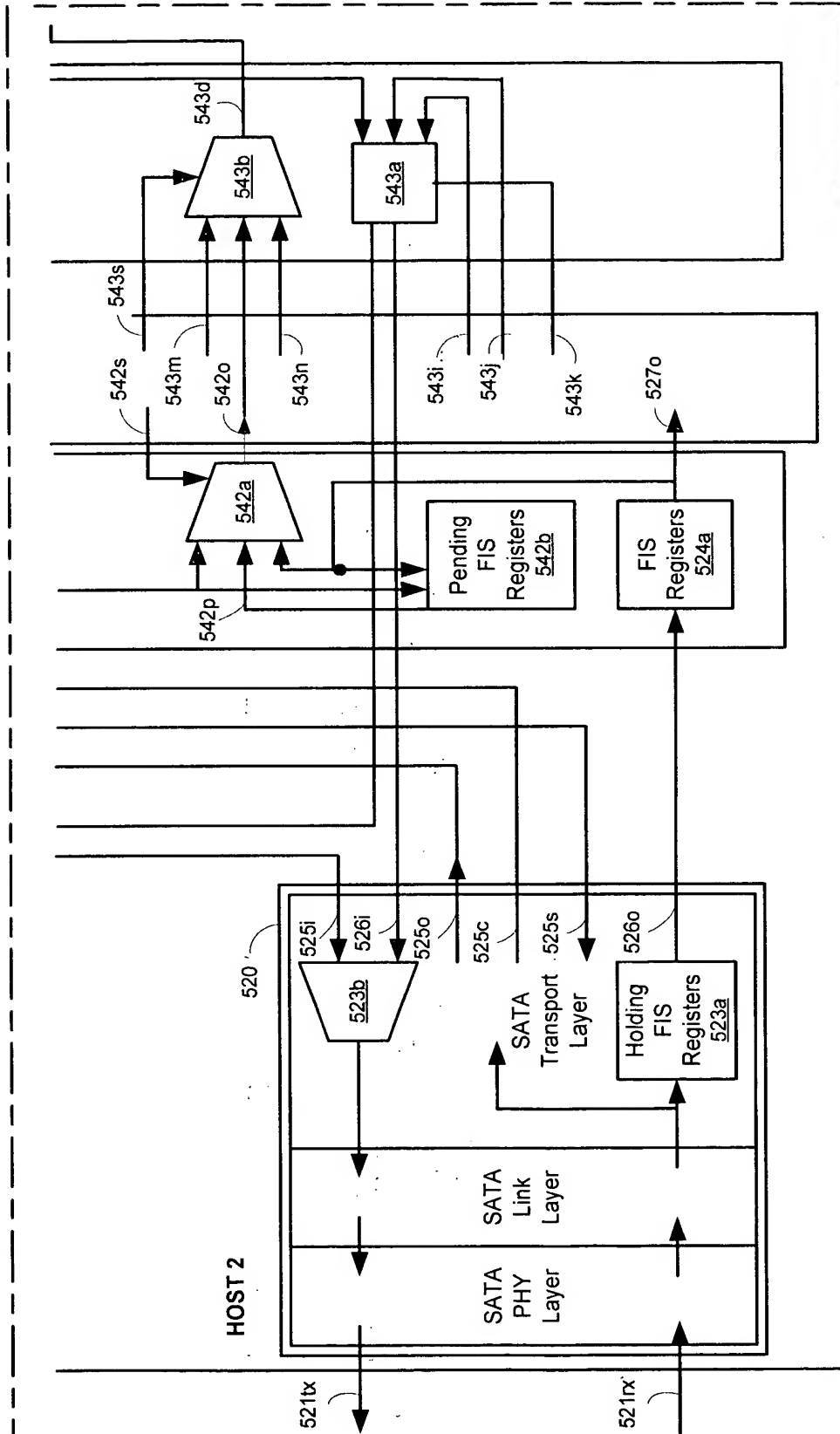


FIG. 11b(ii)

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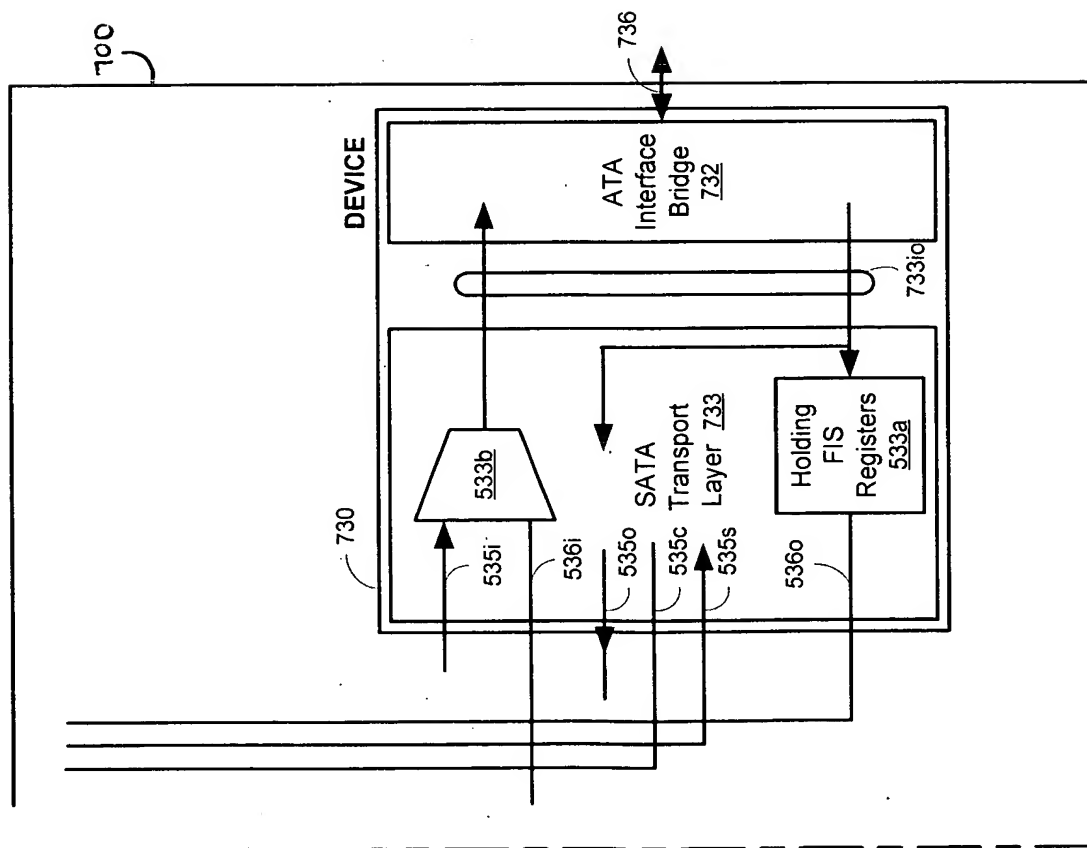


FIG. 11b(iii)